

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multi-partition computer system, comprising:
a plurality of cell boards, with each cell board including at least one main processor;
and
a service processor that is connected to each of the cell boards;
5 wherein each partition includes at least one cell board, and the service processor manages configuration of the partitions.
2. The computer system of claim 1, wherein:
each partition is running an operating system that is independent of the other partitions.
3. The computer system of claim 1, wherein:
each cell board of a partition is capable of being reassigned to another partition while the computer system is on-line.
4. The computer system of claim 1, wherein:
the service processor communicates with the cell boards via at least one USB format bus.
5. The computer system of claim 1, wherein:
each cell board may be replaced while the computer system is on-line.
6. The computer system of claim 1, wherein:
the service processor can command the operations of the cell boards.
7. The computer system of claim 1, wherein:
the service processor can command the operations of the partitions.

8. The computer system of claims 7, wherein:
the service processor can reset a partition.

9. The computer system of claim 1, wherein:
the service processor may be replaced while the computer system is on-line.

10. The computer system of claim 1, further comprising:
a profile that describes a configuration for the computer system;
wherein the service processor and each cell board maintains a copy of the profile.

11. The computer system of claim 10, wherein:
the profile is managed by the service processor.

12. The computer system of claim 11, wherein:
information describing certain changes to the computer system are relayed to the
service processor;
the service processor modifies the profile to correspond to the information; and
the service processor distributes the modified profile to the cell boards.

13. The computer system of claim 1, wherein each cell board includes:
a micro-controller that handles communication between the service processor and the
cell board.